

Frequently Asked Questions: Short Term Missions

Please remember that the short term missions application must be filled out in its entirety. It may take up to three months for the application to be reviewed by the committee. We suggest submitting the application as soon as plans are confirmed. If an applicant's support needs change significantly, or if the applicant changes their address or their departure date, it is the applicant's responsibility to submit a statement to the Missions Coordinator regarding these changes.

Please note that all support is allocated in the form of an "up to" amount. If you no longer need the amount LMPC has allocated for your trip, please let us know so that someone else may benefit from this support. Please read the frequently asked questions below for further information on LMPC's short term application process.

Question: Who is eligible for short term support?

Answer: Individuals traveling on a missions trip between one week and three years in length.

Question: Does LMPC provide support for all short term applicants?

Answer: No. The World Missions Committee has three sub-committees, one of which was created to review short term applications. This committee meets approximately 6 times a year and most recipients of short term support are either LMPC members or regular attendees at LMPC.

Question: Will LMPC cover the total cost of my short term trip?

Answer: No. Raising support is an important part of the missions experience, and we find that as applicants work to create a financial base, they establish a strong prayer base as well. If you would like to receive a sample support letter, please contact the Missions Office.

Question: If I send out support letters and still remain unable to pay the cost of my trip, will LMPC supply the remaining funds?

Answer: No. Personal funds may need to be used for your short term trip.

Question: Will LMPC be the vehicle/conduit for my short term support?

Answer: Possibly. In some cases, LMPC is the best avenue for receiving support; however, please do not assume that is the case. If you would like to set up a short term account through LMPC you will need to receive approval from the Missions Coordinator and LMPC Administrator.

Question: Can I schedule a meeting with the short term missions sub-committee?

Answer: No. Due to the number of applications the short term sub-committee receives, we are unable to meet personally with our applicants. However, if you have questions regarding your trip, the process or the status of your application, you may contact the Missions Coordinator.

Question: Do I need to contact LMPC once I return?

Answer: Yes, we would love to hear about your short term experience.

Question: Will LMPC make monthly or quarterly contributions to my short term trip?

Answer: No. Short term funds will be paid in one payment.

Here are some helpful hints for short term missions:

- Traveling overseas is expensive! Remember to make your reservations early to receive the best airfare possible. LMPC suggests sending out a minimum of 100 support letters two to three months prior to your trip. It may be necessary to turn in receipts for your trip expenses. We suggest keeping receipts for any vaccines, flights or accommodations.
- When planning your short term trip, remember to allow plenty of time for applying for Visas and Passports. Your Passport must be valid for six months AFTER your return date. Many countries require immunizations and vaccines prior to entry. For a complete list of these requirements, please consult www.cdc.gov/travel
- When planning a trip overseas, please consult <http://travel.state.gov/> for up-to-date travel advisories.
- It is important to have insurance coverage while traveling overseas. If your current insurance provider will not cover your trip, it may be necessary to purchase travel insurance. This can usually be purchased alongside your airfare.
- Be smart with your luggage! Airlines have weight restrictions and fees for excess baggage can be steep! In addition, remember that these restrictions may change once you arrive at your destination. For example: if the weight limit is 50 pounds in the US, it may drop to 35 pounds on your return flight. Your team coordinator or travel agent will be able to advise you on such restrictions. Also, your team leader may be able to provide a packing list to assist you.
- Some countries have currency restrictions. It is best to inquire about these at least two weeks prior to your trip. In addition, if you are planning to use a credit or debit card overseas you will need to notify your bank.
- When traveling to a sensitive area, please be considerate of security issues. For example: you may not be permitted to bring large quantities of Christian material. Trying to do so may be problematic for you, as well as the organization or team you are visiting. If you are bringing a Bible or other Christian material into a sensitive country, they should be labeled: "FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY."